

UNCLASSIFIED

E11

UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN FULL

PAGE 01 CARACA 12945 062054Z  
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	SJK-01	DODE-00	DS-00
	EB-01	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	LAB-04
	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-02
	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	RP-10	SIL-01	SNP-01	SP-01
	SR-01	SS-01	STR-20	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	/086W
-----B47463 062055Z /38							

P 062054Z DEC 91  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6674  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

UNCLAS CARACAS 12945

CINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PINS, ASEC, SOCI, VE  
SUBJECT: GOV DECIDES TO KEEP SCHOOLS CLOSED;  
- PRESIDENT CLAIMS "SUBVERSIVES ARE NO DANGER"

REF: CARACAS 12895

1. SUMMARY: ON DECEMBER 5 INCIDENTS OF PROTEST WERE  
REPORTED ONLY IN MERIDA AND VALENCIA. THE GOV HAS  
DECIDED TO KEEP SCHOOLS CLOSED UNTIL JANUARY 7, TO  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 12945 062054Z  
ENSURE "THE RIGHT TO LIFE". PRESIDENT PEREZ ANNOUNCED  
THAT "SUBVERSIVES ARE NO DANGER TO THE COUNTRY." END  
SUMMARY.

2. DECEMBER 5 WAS RELATIVELY CALM IN VENEZUELA.  
VIOLENT INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED ONLY IN MERIDA AND  
VALENCIA. IN MERIDA "ENCAPUCHADOS" BURNED A VEHICLE TO  
PROTEST THE IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES  
PERZ THAT AFTERNOON TO ATTEND A CEREMONY INSTALLING THE  
NEW ARCHBISHOP, BALTAZAR ENRIQUE PORRAS CARDOZO. IN  
VALENCIA, "ENCAPUCHADOS" SEIZED TWO CARGO VEHICLES NEAR

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

THE UNIVERSITY OF CARABOBO AND LOOTED THE MERCHANDISE.

3. THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, GUSTAVO ROOSEN, ANNOUNCED THAT HIGH SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES WILL REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL JANUARY 7, 1992. THE MINISTER EXPLAINED THE DECISION AS RECOGNITION OF THE PRIORITY OF THE "RIGHT TO LIFE" OVER THE "RIGHT TO EDUCATION." ROOSEN ALSO SAID THAT THIS DECISION DOES NOT AFFECT PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES; IT IS UP TO THEM TO DETERMINE WHETHER TO CLOSE THEIR DOORS OR NOT.

4. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON DECEMBER 5 WAS BRIEFED ON STUDENT PROTESTS BY MINISTER OF INTERIOR ALEJANDRO IZAGUIRRE, MINISTER OF DEFENSE FERNANDO OCHOA ANTICH, AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION ROOSEN. MINISTER OF INFORMATION ANDRES ELOY BLANCO AFTERWARD INFORMED THE PRESS THAT THE MINISTERS BELIEVE THERE IS NO RESURGENCE OF GUERRILLA MOVEMENTS, AND THAT THE "ONLY OBJECTIVE" OF THE SMALL GROUP OF AGITATORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLENCE "IS TO CREATE A STATE OF PERMANENT CHAOS."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03

CARACA 12945 062054Z

5. CAP, WHILE IN MERIDA, SAID THAT THERE ARE SMALL GROUPS OF SUBVERSIVES IN VENEZUELA, BUT THEY ARE "OF NO IMPORTANCE IN THE COUNTRY." CAP AGAIN CONDEMNED THE KILLINGS OF STUDENTS AND POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT "WAS THE FIRST TO CALL THIS (KILLING) A CRIME." HE DENIED THE "CRAZY" IDEA THAT HIS GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO "PRIVATIZE" EDUCATION, AND HE TERMED THE RUMOR AN EFFORT TO CREATE MORE CONFUSION.

6. ACCORDING TO "DIARIO DE CARACAS" OF DECEMBER 6, ACCION DEMOCRATICA HAS FORMULATED AN ANTI-SUBVERSIVE PLAN FOR CAP TO CONSIDER NEXT WEEK. AD SPOKESMAN LUIS EMILIO RONDON SAID THE PARTY PREPARED THESE RECOMMENDATIONS SO AS TO "ERADICATE THESE SUBVERSIVE GROUPS THAT HAVE CREATED A SITUATION OF INSTABILITY THAT RESULTED IN ALL SORTS OF VIOLENCE." INCLUDED IN THIS PLAN OF ACTION BY AD ARE SUGGESTIONS TO DEAL WITH AN ALLEGED GROWING DISCONTENT AMONG LOWER AND MIDDLE-LEVEL PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES ABOUT THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION. THE PARTY APPARENTLY WILL SUGGEST PROVIDING BETTER HOUSING AND AN INCREASE IN SALARY FOR THE MILITARY.

7. "DIARIO" ALSO REPORTED THAT AD WILL ASK CAP TO

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

CHANGE SOME ASPECTS OF HIS ECONOMIC REFORM PLAN,  
SPECIFICALLY PROPOSING THAT HE FREEZE GASOLINE PRICES.  
ACCORDING TO "DIARIO", AD BELIEVES THAT THIS PARTICULAR  
ISSUE WAS THE CAUSE OF MOST OF THE PROTESTS ON A  
NATIONAL LEVEL. A SEPARATE PRESS REPORT NOTES, HOWEVER,  
THAT MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY CELESTINO ARMAS TOLD  
CONGRESS ON DECEMBER 5 THAT THE GASOLINE PRICE HIKES  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 CARACA 12945 062054Z  
WERE "INSIGNIFICANT", AND THAT POPULAR DISSATISFACTION  
CENTERS AROUND BUS FARE INCREASES.

8. THE JUDICIAL CASE AGAINST THE FIVE POLICEMEN ACCUSED  
OF KILLING TWO STUDENTS AND ONE ARMY RECRUIT IN MACARAO  
CONTINUES. THE POLICEMEN REPORTEDLY HAVE CONFESSED TO  
USING MARBLES AS SUBSTITUTES FOR PLASTIC BULLETS, BUT  
DENY THAT THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS. SKOL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED